

REMARKS

Claims 33-59 are pending in the application. Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 3-10, and 29-32 without prejudice.

The Final Office Action, dated March 9, 2004, maintained the rejection of all pending claims. Applicants filed a request for reconsideration on May 6, 2004, following which the Examiner issued an advisory action indicating that the rejection of all claims was being maintained. Applicants again respectfully submit that the prior Office Actions did not establish a *prima facie* case of anticipation or obviousness for the reasons set forth in Applicants' Response to Office Action dated February 24, 2004 and Response to Office Action dated May 6, 2004. Nevertheless, Applicants have cancelled pending claims 1, 3-10, and 29-32 without prejudice and added new claims 33-59 and submitted herewith a Request for Continued Examination. Applicants retain the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation application.

The new claims recite a method for enforcing a policy on a network. When the user attempts to access the network, a user object corresponding to the user is identified. The user object includes attributes such as a group to which the user belongs. The group is then used to identify a corresponding user profile comprising communication parameters and authorization parameters. The authorization parameters are used to determine whether to grant or deny access to resources on the network. The communication parameters are used to configure the communication path between the user and the network. Thus, the user attributes, including the group to which the user belongs, are used for at least two independent purposes including (1) determining how to configure the data path and (2) which resources the user can access on the network.

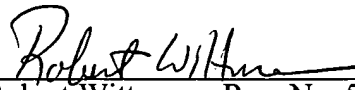
The Win patent, which is the primary reference relied upon to reject the now cancelled claims, does not disclose, teach, or suggest the combination of elements recited in the newly pending claims. For example, Win does not disclose, teach, or suggest a user object having both authorization parameters and communication parameters. Moreover, although Win arguably discloses a method of identifying a group to which the user belongs, the group is only used to determine which resources the user can access on the network. Win does not disclose, teach, or suggest basing the configuration of the communication path upon the determined group. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record.

In re Appln. of Palekar et al.
Application No. 09/360,912

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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